

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8124

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, TECH, AR
SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION: OAS TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS WORKING
GROUP (TEWG)

REF: STATE 299448

1. S&T COUNSELOR MADE LOW KEY DEMARCHE REQUESTED BY REFTEL ON
FONMIN D G FOR CULTURE AND SCIENCE AMB. JUAN MANUEL FIGUERERO A.
WE JUDGE FIGUERERO TO BE MOST INTERESTED AND INVOLVED MAN IN
FONOFF ON MATTERS OF TECHNOLOGY AND ITS APPLICATION TO DEVELOP-
MENT. HE IS OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION FOR MINISTRY
WITH GOA TECHNICAL AGENCIES. DEPT. WILL RECALL HE WAS ALSO DEEPLY
INVOLVED IN THE "TLATELOLCO DIALOG" AND SERVED FOR MANY MONTHS AS
HEAD OF MINISTRY'S SECRETARIAT FOR MFM IN BUENOS AIRES, WHICH
NEVER WAS HELD.

2. WE MADE POINTS GIVEN IN REFTEL. FIGUERERO MOST INTERESTED IN
OUR IDEAS ON MAKEUP OF TWO SUBGROUPS OF TEWG, AND TOOK CAREFUL
NOTES OF THIS ASPECT OF US SUGGESTIONS.

3. FIGUERERO'S ATTITUDE (WHICH WE HAVE NO REASON AT THIS POINT
TO DOUBT WILL BE FINAL GOA ATTITUDE) WAS DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE,
NOT ONLY TOWARD TEWG, BUT TOWARD THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR
DEVELOPMENT ITSELF. FIGUERERO IS A CAREFUL OBSERVER OF U.S.
POLITICAL SCENE. HE EXPECTS THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO
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TACKLE PROBLEMS ON A GLOBAL BASIS FIRST, AND TO MAKE ECONOMIC

ISSUES EVER MORE IMPORTANT THAN THEY NOW ARE (OR WERE WHEN CONNALLY WAS TREASURY SECRETARY) IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. HE DOES NOT RPT NOT THINK THAT UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION U.S. WILL BE LIKELY TO TREAT LATIN AMERICA ANY DIFFERENTLY IN REGARDS TO DEVELOPMENT THAN IT TREATS REST OF WORLD.

4. WITH RESPECT TO TEWG, FIGUERERO DOES NOT RPT NOT EXPECT TO SEND ANYONE FROM BUENOS AIRES TO JAN. MEETING. HE NOTED AS JUSTIFICATION THAT THERE WERE JUST TOO MANY MEETINGS ON THIS SUBJECT (UN SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, CIEC MEETING COMING UP, UN CONFERENCE ON S&T FOR DEVELOPMENT) AND THAT JANUARY IS TRADITIONAL ARGENTINE VACATION PERIOD, AS WELL AS HIS SKEPTICISM ON THIS EFFORT AS A WHOLE

5. WE AGREED THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION LIKELY REASSESS US APPROACH TO LATIN DEVELOPMENT, BUT NOTED PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT CONSIDERABLE FIRST RATE STAFF WORK SEEMED TO BE GOING INTO THE TEWG EFFORT IN THE U.S. AND THAT THERE WAS GOOD LIKELIHOOD THIS WOULD CARRY OVER INTO NEW ADMINISTRATION.

6. FIGUERERO KEPT OPEN AN OPTION TO SEND A BUENOS AIRES EXPERT TO THE TEWG, BUT AT THIS JUNCTURE IT SEEMS MOST UNLIKELY. OUR CHARACTERIZATION OF NATURE OF 1ST SESSION AS U.S. PERCEIVED IT (PARA (6) REFTEL) SEEMED TO REINFORCE HIS DETERMINATION ON THIS.

7. NEEDLESS TO SAY, FIGUERERO HAD NO OPINION CONCERNING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF TEWG.
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